



Being A Battle-Ready Christian

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Colossians 3:23 NIV

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

A BATTLE-READY CHRISTIAN

What We Have Learned

As we stated before, the main message of Ephesians is unity. The letter emphasizes that because of Christ, both Jews and Gentiles are now one body, the Church. Paul underscores the importance of unity, harmony, and mutual love among believers. This allows us to transcend cultural, ethnic, and social barriers.

INTRODUCTION

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is one of the most encouraging letters he wrote, which is full of deep spiritual truths and a major source of rich blessings for the Christian today.

Within it, he reminds us that all Christians are united with Christ, no matter our gender, our race or our backgrounds. The law of Moses couldn't and can't save anyone from their sins, we're all saved by the grace of God if we remain in Christ.

Ephesians 4:17–6:24 Paul encourages the Saints to apply true doctrine in their daily lives. He encourages them to put off the old man (their former sins) and put on the new man they become through Christ.

He gives counsel to wives, husbands, children, parents, servants, masters, and congregations. He encourages Saints to “put on the whole armor of God” ([Ephesians 6:11](#)).

The armor of God represents the defense we must take in our spiritual lives. The Bible tells us that we are fighting a war against Satan, who seeks to destroy us. Therefore, we must take action and put on God's armor.

As Christians, it is important for us to understand the severity of this battle. As it is often something we cannot physically see, it is easy to lose sight of the impact it can have.

However, it can be very dangerous when we forget to equip ourselves with the armor of God and allow the enemy to take control in our lives.

Whole Armor of God Defined

Putting on God's armor isn't like dressing with clothes from your closet. There's no mixing and matching, no switching out for whatever the season may require. Spiritual armor is applied by faith, daily — and the entire letter of Ephesians teaches us how to put it on.

Satan labors to make you a liar like him. But we put on the Lord's *belt of truth* by “[putting] away falsehood” and “[speaking] the truth” to one another ([Ephesians 4:25](#)). We don't hatefully deceive like the devil, but “[speak] the truth in love” ([Ephesians 4:15](#)).

We don't cover our sins but confess them. We don't slander but speak honest words about others. Putting on the belt of truth is an act of faith that resists Satan's call to be a liar like him ([John 8:44](#)).

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, HELMET OF SALVATION

Satan wants you to join him in rebelling against God. But we resist him by putting on the *breastplate of righteousness* and the *helmet of salvation*. We “put off [our] old self . . . [and] put on the new self . . . in true righteousness” ([Ephesians 4:22–24](#)).

We stand confidently in Christ's imputed righteousness rather than adopt worldly identities ([Ephesians 1–3](#)).

We step courageously in Christlike practical righteousness rather than follow worldly ways ([Ephesians 4–6](#)). We resist sexual immorality in order to show true love ([Ephesians 5:1–6](#)).

We resist corrupting talk and crude joking by speaking grace-filled words of edification ([Ephesians 4:29](#)) We do not get drunk with worldly indulgence but serve others in the power of the Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18–21](#)).

SHOES OF GOSPEL PEACE

Satan hates the good news about Christ's blood and the forgiveness it purchases. He hates to see sinners reconciled to God ([Ephesians 2:1–10](#)) and to one another in the church ([Ephesians 2:11–22](#)). He wars to hinder evangelism among unbelievers ([Luke 8:12](#)) and strives to stoke angry division among the redeemed ([Ephesians 4:26–27](#)).

But hell's gates will not prevail against Jesus's church ([Matthew 16:18](#)). So, we lace up *shoes of gospel peace* and sow gospel seed ([Romans 10:15](#)). Inspired by his grace, we “[bear] with one another in love” and are “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” ([Ephesians 4:1–3](#)).

SHIELD OF FAITH

Satan stokes fear in hopes that we will retreat. He threatens us with social rejection, persecution, pain, and death ([Hebrews 2:14](#)). But rather than retreat, we take up the *shield of faith*. We draw near to Jesus, and hide without shame under his cover.

We embrace his words to the persecuted church in Smyrna: “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” ([Revelation 2:10](#)).

We “do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” ([Matthew 10:28](#)). We rest knowing that, even if we die for Christ, we shall forever live with Christ ([John 11:25–26](#)).

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Satan seduces and accuses us with lies. But we take up the *sword of the Spirit* and strike down his lofty arguments ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)). When he promises fleeting pleasures, we emulate Jesus by striking them down with God’s word ([Matthew 4:1–11](#)).

When he heaps shame and condemnation upon us, we slash them with scriptural assurances ([Romans 8:1](#)). When we are threatened by Satan’s requests to sift us, we pray, knowing that Jesus ever lives to intercede for us ([Luke 22:31](#); [Hebrews 7:25](#)).

“Spiritual warfare most often takes place in the mundane details of life.”

Some of these descriptions may not seem like spiritual warfare because they seem so normal, so everyday. But while spiritual warfare can involve demonic possession and exorcisms, it most often takes place in the mundane details of life. Why do you think confessing your sin is so difficult?

Why is obedience so challenging? Why are you so afraid to evangelize? Why is forgiveness so daunting? Why is prayer so marred by distraction?

It is because the world, the flesh, and the devil are continually working against what our Lord is warring for.

Yet we do not lose heart, because we face them in our Lord's strength, knowing that "he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" ([1 John 4:4](#)). We go into battle with Christ who strengthens us.

When Satan Strikes

At times, we fail to put on the armor. We get busy with our own pursuits, and when the struggle sneaks up on us, we try to fight in our own strength. We step out from under our Lord's strength and are overcome by temptation.

We lie instead of speaking truth. We harbor bitterness instead of forgiving. We slander instead of pursuing peace. We justify sin instead of repenting of it. We indulge our lust instead of loving God. We grieve the Spirit and sap our joy ([Ephesians 4:30](#)).

When these fiery darts strike us, we are left wounded and wearied. Our spiritual strength is sapped, desire for prayer dissipates, singing is silenced, shame is stoked, fellowship is avoided, and our taste for temptation increases.

When this happens, we must not lose heart, but rather cry to our warrior God, our great Savior, who leaves none of his fellow soldiers behind. He will not allow us to be snatched from his grasp ([John 10:28](#)).

Rather, he will throw us over his shoulder, and take us to green pastures and still waters, where he will restore our souls ([Psalm 23:1–3](#)). In him we are strengthened to go back into battle, knowing that our warrior God "will soon crush Satan under your feet" ([Romans 16:20](#)).

SUMMARY/CLOSING: So, the question today is. Are You a Battle Ready Christian? When we understand that what we're in is a spiritual battle and not a physical, we've got to be ready to deal with it from a spiritual perspective.

The way we do this is to know Jesus the Christ as Lord and savior and allow Him to dwell in you. When He comes in, He brings with Him all that Heaven has to offer in dealing with the battle we find ourselves faced with.

We don't have to fight the battle, but we do need to know the one who gives us victory in the midst of the battle and that's Jesus the Christ, the son of the living God who hung, bled, and died on Calvary's cross for your sins and mine.

When you have Jesus, you have what you need for the battle!